

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The courtesies extended by the Examiners to the undersigned and Messrs. Curtis and Grossnicklaus are acknowledged with appreciation. A copy of the slide presentation brought to the interview and demonstrated for the Examiners is attached to be made a part of the record.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. New claim 20 has been added. Claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 18 were previously canceled. The express recitation of each other claim is unaffected by amendments herein.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1, 5, 13, 14, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,237,228 (Fries) in view of US Patent No. 6,822,354 (Naman). Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and further in view of US Patent No. 6,023,113 (Otsuka). Claims 4 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and further in view of US Patent No. 5,497,040 (Sato). Claims 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fries in view of Naman and US Patent No. 5,639,168 (Noguschi et al) and in further in view of US Patent No. 5,134,328 (Johnatakis et al), US Patent No. 6,495,941 (Nishimura), and US Patent No. 6,528,909 (Kan et al).

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to generally recite that the

bearing assembly components are locked into a fixed position, and that the thermal expansion characteristics of the bearing assembly elements are selected so that the rotor assembly is retained in its preloaded, locked position during machine operation. The prior art of record does not disclose this feature, but relies solely on conventional preloading in an attempt to prevent adverse wear characteristics clearly demonstrated in the slide presentation.

Applicant submits that the arguments and amendments are sufficient to place the pending application in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this matter. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or any underpayments which may be required for the above-referenced application to Deposit Account No. 01-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

/W. Thad Adams, III/

W. Thad Adams, III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,037

W. Thad Adams, III
ADAMS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW, P.A.
Suite 2350 Charlotte Plaza
201 South College Street
Charlotte, NC 28244
Tel: (704) 375-9249
Fax: (704) 375-0729
Email: wta@adamspat.com
File No.: 2974/2US